

Appropriations Committee

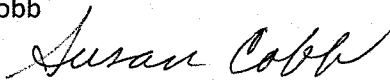
My name is Susan Cobb and I am a member of the Southwest Montana Veterans Home Site Selection Committee. I am a veteran of the US Airforce Nurse Corps and a registered Nurse. I live in Madison County and represented that county on the Site selection committee. This committee was appointed by the governor to choose a site for the veteran home and after a year of work the committee chose the Butte/Silver Bow site.

It was understood by the six county representatives on the committee that the State of Montana would appropriate matching funds to get the home built. The federal government will be watching what happens here in Montana with this bill #296. Two thirds of the money to build will come from the Federal sources. At the State of the State address the Governor led a moment of silence for the fallen soldiers of Montana. We are obligated to serve the injured veterans as well and try to meet the needs of those who served as their needs arise.

I know the State of Montana is obligated to balance it's budget and this bill does outline the source of financing this project. I urge the committee to move this bill to the floor of the legislature for adoption and let us get started on building a fine facility to serve our veterans.

Thank you, Susan Cobb

February 3, 2011



## Appropriations Committee -

I served as the Jefferson County representative on the site selection committee. I feel the process was flawed in that Jefferson County was the only county to meet 100% of the conditions of the RFP, plus we put \$25,000.00 in a veterans contingency fund. The legislature is not bound by our site <sup>selection</sup> + could overturn it. The long term savings to the state in terms of transportation and shared services with Montana Development service would be huge, if the home were sited in Boulder. Beyond that I would quote; "The nation that forgets its defenders will itself soon be forgotten". I urge you to appropriate the state matching funds to move the home construction forward.

Respectfully,  
Lanney Latten